



INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

TEACHING REFORMED THEOLOGY ONLINE
TO PORTUGUESE SPEAKERS WORLDWIDE

Newsletter

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“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,”
(Hebrews 1:1-3 ESV)

Jesus Christ – Our Prophet, Priest and King

Solano Portela

Early in the book of Hebrews (1:1-3) we read these statements about Christ:

1. The message that Christ has given us, is similar to that of the prophets (v. 1), that is: **Jesus Christ is the Prophet**. This role was already foretold in the Old Testament. The Old Testament prophets were the mouthpieces of God, His messengers. Jesus is the supreme revelation of the Father, of His will, of His purposes and of His desires.

2. He purged our sins (v. 3), that is: **Jesus Christ is Priest**. Also foretold in the Old Testament, this role was represented by members of the tribe of Levi. The priests were the mediators between the holy God and sinful men. They performed the service to offer sacrifices and intercede for the people. Christ is the only perfect priest and exercised His role offering Himself on the cross (Heb 7:24-28), for our salvation.

3. He is not only the author of all things, but is also presented as the heir of all things (v. 2), this means that **Jesus Christ is King**. In many passages of the Old Testament we find mention of the majesty and reign of Christ. King of

kings, who overcomes the enemy and ensures victory for Himself and for His people!

These offices, which describe well the work of Christ, have been identified in the Word of God by theologians of all ages: **Jesus Christ is our Prophet, Priest and King**.



Some years ago a rather strange teaching was promoted in certain churches, it said that it was possible for someone to have accepted Jesus as Savior but not as Lord, and urged people to take this “second step”, accepting Christ as Lord. Many youth meetings ended with this type of appeal, popularized in a small booklet titled, “*The Four Spiritual Laws*”.

The person of Jesus Christ is, however, indivisible, as well as His functions. He comes into our lives as Savior (Priest) and Lord (King).

As Prophet, He is the word of salvation, guidance, admonition,

correction and judgment, that is, He interconnects aspects of being **Lord and Savior**.

When we sin, we go against His position as Lord of our lives. When we are involved in something wrong, we deny the reign He has by right. He punishes us, as the King that He is. He loves us and wants us to repent at the foot of the cross, to receive the promised forgiveness, as He is our Savior.

The Bible gives no comfort to anyone on the dubious proposition that you can continue to live in sin, with Jesus only as Savior, until one day you call Him to be your Lord. The Bible knows nothing of this possibility, and to those who live in sin it commands them **to examine the salvation** they profess.

The true believer has a life characterized by obedience (John 14:15, 23; 1 John 1:6). He does not walk in need of a “second blessing” or a “second conversion”. He **needs** to have the Holy Spirit exercising full dominion over his actions. He needs to be filled with the Spirit, to subdue his sinful nature, but he **has already** been redeemed by Jesus Christ, the glorious Messiah – Lord and Savior: Prophet, Priest and King.



Francisco Solano Portela Neto, Bachelor of Applied Mathematics and Master of Theology, taught at Seminário Presbiteriano do Norte (Northern Presbyterian Seminary), Recife, PE, Brazil and in the Centro Presbiteriano de Pós-Graduação Andrew Jumper (Andrew Jumper Presbyterian Center for Graduate Studies), São Paulo, SP, Brazil. He is the vice-president of the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF) and the Secretary of Inter-Ecclesiastical Relations of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (“CRIE-IPB”). He is the Director of Education of Mackenzie Presbyterian University. He preaches and lectures, and is author of articles, lessons for Sunday School and several books, including, *Fé Cristã e Misticismo* (Christian Faith and Mysticism, *Cultura Cristã* Publishing House and *O que Estão Ensinando aos Nossos Filhos?* (What Are They Teaching Our Children?), *FIEL* Publishing House. An elder since 1975, he serves at the Presbyterian Church of Santo Amaro, São Paulo, SP, Brazil. Married to Betty Portela for 43 years, they have four children and eleven grandchildren. He was a member of the founding committee of the IRTC and was the speaker for the inaugural worship service, held at the Swiss Reformed Church in Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil, on October 17, 2000.

Interview with an IRTC student



We bring in this article an interview with Walker Calvet Ozorio Correa, a student in the IRTC Bachelor of Christian Studies (Pre-Pastoral) program. He is an elder of the Evangelical Congregational Church in Natal, RN, Brazil, and Captain of the Merchant Marine in the Campos Basin, RJ, Brazil.

1) Could you tell us a little about your professional activity? *This profession is quite unusual compared to other activities, since we spend much of our life on board and away from our homes and the families we love.*

Being a Captain in the Merchant Marine is to be directly involved with and motivating men and women on board, whose activities are surrounded by risks inherent to the work offshore. In this seafaring activity, the responsibilities never diminish and it is necessary to have a team spirit to achieve success, as each member of the team is essential.

2) How did you hear of the IRTC? *Pastor David Bezerra who is our pastor was the one who introduced the name of the IRTC to me for the first time. I have been studying in the IRTC since 2014.*

3) In light of your profession, how do you regard Distance Education (DE)? *I see Distance Education as a powerful teaching tool for people like me who do not have the possibility of attending regular classes throughout the school*

year. This distance learning in no way diminishes the degree of importance of and dedication to my studies.

4) What are the benefits that DE has brought to your spiritual and professional life? *The biblical/theological knowledge I have been receiving over the years by way of the educational excellence of the IRTC teachers has contributed significantly to my life, both spiritually and professionally. In addition to the spiritual growth enabling me to discern heresy in our midst, I have certainly been edified to guide others who walk my way.*

5) How have you been applying the knowledge acquired from the IRTC in your church ministry? *As an elder of the Evangelical Congregational Church in Natal, RN, Brazil, I have helped more effectively in biblical teaching in the Sunday school and in the opportunities given to me by the pastor to preach in the worship services of our church, and thus been more useful for edifying the body of Christ.*

6) What do you think about the new DE platform WordPress? *I am very impressed with this new teaching platform. It is very interactive and challenging! With this new platform, it is faster to download the files, as here on board the connection speed is very slow. With all this interactivity I'm even more motivated to continue my studies.*

7) What advice would you leave for the other IRTC students? *I would recommend that they take seriously the studies even though they are at a distance, because contrary to what may seem to be the case, studying at a distance requires greater commitment to achieve the teaching and learning goals. As for those students who wish to join the IRTC, I say that this was the best decision I made in my student life.*

IMPORTANT: Support for the IRTC

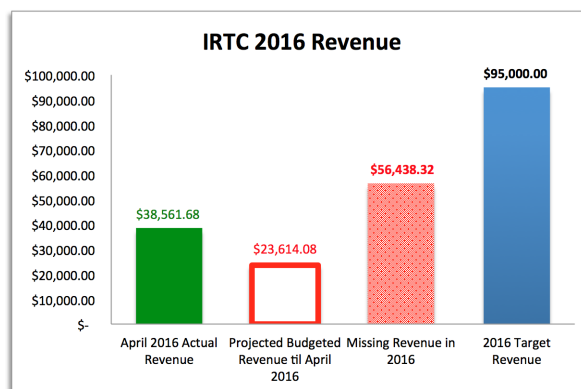
We invite you to join us in equipping workers for the harvest. This year, our goal is to raise USD\$95,000.00 to sustain the IRTC. This amount will be used for teacher gratuities and to cover costs of the educational platform, administration and other special projects.

Thankfully, we serve a great God that awakens His people to sustain the work of the Kingdom!

There are several ways in which brothers and sisters can help:

1. Pray for the IRTC, its teachers, leadership, students and financial situation
2. Contribute financially to the IRTC
3. Call the attention of potential students to the advantages of studying at the IRTC
4. Share this newsletter to disseminate the work and the needs of the IRTC

If the Lord moves you to contribute in some way, please visit the "Donations" page on our website (www.pro-rege.net/ds14.htm). There you will find all the information necessary for making your contribution in the USA. Canadian donors, please make your donations at www.irtcsociety.ca.



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